(c) During the Foreign Secretary level talks in the framework of the Composite Dialogue in June 2004, India had proposed a number of cooperation measures to Pakistan for enhancing people-to-people contact across the International Border and Line of Control, including a Jammu-Sialkot bus link. These proposals were reiterated subsequently, most recently during the Foreign Secretary level talks in January 2006. Pakistan has not accepted the proposal for a Jammu-Sialkot bus link.

Permanent seat in UNSC

1686. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether further steps have been taken during the current year to secure its place in the UN Security Council as a permanent member with 'Veto Power';

(b) if so, results thereof; and

(c) the permanent UN Security Council, members and other that have so far come out in support of India's claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government continues to actively pursue India's candidature for a permanent seat of the UN Security Council. Further steps in this regard were taken by the Government during the current year. The Framework Resolution of the G-4 countries (India, Brazil, Germany and Japan), which had been introduced by the G-4 during the last (59th) Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), was re-tabled during the current (60th) Session of UNGA by India, Brazil and Germany. Japan has been positively involved in the G-4 consultations before as well as after the re-tabling of this Resolution. The Government has also continued to utilise bilateral meeting with different countries to mobilise further support for India's candidature, besides participating actively in the debates of Security Council reform at the United Nations. Support for India's candidature, which has been steadily increasing, has been expressed in various forms and fora. Some countries have expressed support confidentially in bilateral discussion with Government of India.

As regards the issue of 'Veto Power', India believes that the existing and new permanent members of the Security Council should have same

responsibilities and rights. This principle is underlined in the G-4 Framework Resolution. However, based on extensive consultations and keeping in view the wide divergence of views on the issue of Veto, the G-4 Resolution provides for a decision on this issue at a review which is envisaged 15 years after the entry into force of the amendments to the UN Charter for the expansion of the Security Council.

Approval before inviting foreign delegation

1687. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary has instructed all agencies including private concerns to take the approval of his Ministry before inviting any foreign delegation, whether political or business, to the country; and

(b) if so, the other details of instructions given by the Ministry of External Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (b) No, Sir.

(b) Cabinet Secretary *vide* his letter dated June 1, 2006 asked various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and State Government to follow the instructions issued by the Ministry of External Affairs *vide* their OM No. Q/GA/557/1/85(EA1/1/85/39) dated November 18,1995 on channel of communication between the Government of India and State Governments on the one hand and foreign Governments, international organisations and their diplomatic missions in India on the other.

These instructions make it desirable that Government and private organisations should extend invitations to delegations from foreign countries to visit India after consulting the Ministry of External Affairs as well as Ministry of Home Affairs. Similarly, they are advised to accept invitation to send delegations to visit foreign countries with the knowledge and consent of Ministry of External Affairs.

These instructions were evolved keeping in view our foreign policy objectives, security interests, considerations of protocol, coordination and provide assistance to delegations going abroad. These are not meant to